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FROM: LONDON

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2603, NOVEMBER 12, 5 PM

SENT DEPARTMENT 2603, REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 336, BONN 96,
MOSCOW 56.

PARIS FOR EMBASSY AND USRO.

RESPONSIBLE AMERICAN JOURNALIST SAYS HE TALKED WITH THREE REPRESENTATIVES SOCIET EMBASSY INCLUDING FEDOROV (TASS REPRESENTATIVE) AT POLISH RECEPTION NOVEMBER 11. HE GOT IMPRESSION ALL WERE WELL BRIEFED ON LINE TO FOLLOW ABOUT KHRUSHCHEV SPEECH ON GERMAN QUESTION. ALL "TALKED TOUGH". WHEN ASKED IF SOVIETS INTENDED TO SURRENDER CONTROL OF COMMUNICATIONS TO WEST BERLIN TO GDR THEY REPLIED LOGICAL TO ASSUME SO. WHEN JOURNALIST ASSERTED WESTERN RIGHTS NOT RPT NOT DEPENDENT UPON POTSDAM, FEDOROV SAID THIS WAS A QUIBBLE, WEST HAD VIOLATED POTSDAM AND SO FAR AS SOVIETS CONCERNED IT IS NON-EXISTENT. WHEN JOURNALIST SAID BERLIN ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE SUBJECT IN US AND KHRUSHCHEV THEREFORE CREATING A DANGEROUS SITUATION FEDOROV REPLIED "IF THERE IS GOING TO BE A WAR WE HAD BETTER HAVE IT NOW AND GET IT OVER WITH".

WHITNEY

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